

Miscellany.

A ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHARACTER.

In last June there died in Midvale, on the eastern edge of the Rocky mountains, in northern Montana, a man who had been a hermit there for 90 years. His name was Monroe, and at the time of his death he was 108 years old. He had a curious history, and three years before his death he had the pleasure of seeing a railroad for the first time. The engineers who were engaged in its construction enjoyed his conversation hugely. It was as if a man had come back from the last century and had stumbled upon improvements such as had never been dreamed of.

Monroe had long, white hair, and a long, white beard. He was toothless, and as he walked about he always carried a crooked stick. When a boy of 18 he left Nova Scotia to go out into British Columbia with the agents of the Hudson Bay company. He was to engage in the fur trade. The company he was with had reached the Selkirk mountain region, and one day in the winter Monroe was lost in a fierce storm, and never could find his way back. He was picking up traps that had been set for game.

Monroe wandered about for weeks and finally travelled across the border into United States territory. Before that time he fell in with the Cree Indians and was practically adopted into their tribe. He married one of the squaws and then moved down to where Midvale is at present and lived there the life of a trapper, ignorant of what was going on in the world, and practically ignorant of where he was. Game was plenty and life was easy for him. He mingled more or less with the Indians in all that country, learned their language and soon forgot part of his native tongue. He always kept his old flint lock musket that he brought out from Nova Scotia and used it up to the very last weeks of his life. He raised a family, and his progeny are numerous in upper Montana.

When the engineers came to lay out the railroad through Midvale, it is a question which was more surprised, Monroe or the engineering party, at the course of events. The old man was somewhat shy, but soon came to spend his entire time with the railroad men. He examined all the instruments, asked all sorts of questions about the world, to which he had been dead for years, and as the scope of modern inventions was unfolded to him, all he would say was:

"Almighty God is powerful."

A hundred times a day the old man would use this expression. During the evenings he would entertain the railroad men with his experiences among the Indians, and many was the horrible tale of their cruelties that he would relate. He had only one eye, and he explained that he had lost this in a fight in which his son was killed. He had one honor, and it will always remain his. He named St. Mary's lake in northern Montana, a beautiful sheet of water which sportsmen frequent much.

Monroe was more curious about electricity than any other of the new forces that came to his observation. He could only comprehend it partially as something that was borrowed from the lightning, and when his intellect became dazed he would simply exclaim:

"Almighty God is powerful."

Monroe exclaimed naturally that locomotives were iron horses, and said that it would take many hundreds of horses to do the work of one of them. For a long time he would not place his hands on any part of their machinery, but by degrees he got used to them, and wanted to know how they were made, and exactly what was the function of each part of the machinery.

At last Monroe got used to them, and he would frequently spend days in riding in the cabs of the construction engines that were on duty in that section. The day before Monroe died he drove a team of bronchos 18 miles, and when his funeral was held all the railroad men who could get away attended it. They said he was a lovable old man, and their association with him was a revelation of what questions would be asked if one of those who lived in the last century should return to life and begin to enquire as to the cause of the great transformations that the present century has brought.—[New York Sun.]

THE PASSING OF STANLEY.

Men who knew Henry M. Stanley when he was a newspaper man will not be surprised at the early "passing" of the African explorer. He has now almost entirely dropped from public notice. Among a number of New York publishers who were discussing the matter the other day, it was stated that Stanley was now living in the small suburbs of London. He has a comfortable small house there, but even the neighbors scarcely know who he is. Not long ago, one of this book talking group said an article from Stanley came to New York, and it actually went begging for a publisher! This seems very strange when one considers that it is only three years ago when one of the Scribners hastily packed his valise and went to Cairo, in Egypt, to head off other publishers and secure the American rights to Stanley's book. He received a fabulous sum for it, sold the English, Indian, Australian, Canadian, German and French rights separately, and made a small fortune out of the book. Then he came here and lectured and added thousands of dollars to his resources. Now, those who are in a position to know question whether he could draw a paying house at moderate prices.

THE USES OF HOT WATER.

The best methods of using hot water are as follows: For sprains of the ankle and wrist or any joint the part should be thoroughly soaked for half an hour at a time, night and morning, in very hot water, writes A. Marcy, M. D., in a very valuable list of "Domestic Household Remedies" in the January Ladies' Home Journal. Any one suffering from a severe sprain will not require more than the first soaking to convince them of the advantages of hot over cold water. A flannel bandage should be applied firmly after each treatment. For bruises very much the same method should be followed, although the application need not be continued for so long a time. For wounds and sores the best method is to drip or pour for a few minutes. For styes and inflamed eyelids, and even for sore eyes, use water as hot as can be borne, by sopping. To stop bleeding, very hot water applied to the raw surface will be found efficacious. For many forms of dyspepsia and biliousness, particularly a catarrhal condition of stomach, a goblet of hot water drunk after the night's fasting, will give relief. For continual application, in the form of a poultice, as in catarrh of the breast, pleurisy, pneumonia, etc., a jacket of cotton batting wrung out in hot water by means of a towel, and covered with oiled silk or waxed paper, should be used.

CAUGHT BY A MOUNTAIN LION.

Jesus Ma. Elias had an experience the other day that he will not be apt soon to forget. He was en route to Tucson from San Carlos accompanied by an Indian. Night overtook them in Box canyon, about twelve miles from the reservation. They stretched out their blankets, and were soon in dreamland. About midnight Mr. Elias was suddenly jerked from his blankets, and woke in great pain. A mountain lion had crept up to the sleeping men and closed its sharp teeth in one of Elias' hands which was exposed, and attempted to drag him off. As soon as he realized the situation, Elias seized one of the lion's ears with his free hand and gave a yell that brought the Indian to his feet in a hurry. A short struggle followed during which the lion made its escape. Elias had his hand dressed when he reached Tucson. It was badly lacerated, and it will be some time before it is fully healed. Elias and his friends regard his escape from death as something remarkable.—[Tucson, Arizona, Star.]

MIXED METAPHORS.

A certain politician, recently condemning the government for their late policy concerning the income tax, is reported to have said: "They'll keep cutting the wool off the sheep that lays the golden eggs until they pump it dry."

Extract from a speech made at a meeting to promote total abstinence: "The glorious work will never be accomplished until the good ship 'Temperance' shall sail from one end of the land to the other, and with a cry of 'Victory!' at each step she takes, shall plant her banner in every town, city and village in the United Kingdom."

An Irishman, in the midst of a tirade against landlords and capitalists, declared that "if these men were landed on an uninhabited island, they wouldn't be there half an hour before they would have their hands in the pockets of the naked savages."

Only a few weeks ago, a lecturer at a big meeting gave utterance to the following: "All along the untrodden paths of the future we can see the hidden footprints of an unseen Hand." "We pursue the shadow, the bubble bursts, and leaves the ashes in our hands!"

One of the regulations of the West Boston Bridge Company reads: "And the said proprietors shall meet annually on the first Tuesday of June, provided the same does not fall on a Sunday."

An orator at one of the University Unions bore off the palm of merit when he declared that "the British lion, whether it is roaming the deserts of India or climbing the forests of Canada, will not draw in its horns nor retire into its shell."

DIAMOND MINING IN THE FREE STATE.

For several days the papers have been full of telegrams with reference to Mr. Robinson's latest investment in the way of a diamond mine. We are now in a position to give the full particulars regarding the same. The Kaal valley mine, situated about nine miles from Ventersburg road station, in the Orange Free State, has been formed into a powerful company, Mr. J. B. Robinson having purchased the full half share in the mine and surrounding properties from Mr. Minter, and has also joined the Kimberley syndicate, who hold the remaining portion of this mine, and who have already spent about £34,000 in the erection of machinery capable of washing 1,000 loads of stuff per diem.

The capital of the new company is £400,000, of which £100,000 is set apart as cash working capital. Of this Mr. Robinson and the syndicate have taken up £50,000, the remainder being held in reserve.

About 1,000 carats weight of diamonds have been found already in washings, amongst them being stones of 23, 18, 14, 12, 10, 8, and 7 carats, and all are of superb quality.

The mine is producing the finest quality of diamonds ever found in South Africa, and the various parcels of stones from it have been valued by experts at from 35s. to 48s. per carat.

It has been decided to erect larger machinery at once with a capacity of manipulating 4,000 to 5,000 loads per day with ease. At the present time only about 30 to 40 per cent. of the soil is washed from the mine, the remainder being placed on the floors. The washing of even this small percentage is yielding a good profit, which not only covers the total expenditure, but leaves a good margin as well. The diamondiferous soil deposited in addition on the floors is, of course a most valuable asset.

The Robinson diamond mine is, as far as can be ascertained, the best diamond mine yet discovered in South Africa outside the Kimberly group.

A few notes with reference to its remarkable discovery will be interesting. The extraordinary manner in which the formation was found again proves the marvellous speculative nature of South African soil. Situated in one of those shallow pans which are dotted all over the immense prairie-like plains of the sister republic, prospectors discovered on its surface a few small pieces of carbon. It was decided to sink a few shafts to ascertain whether the pan contained any diamondiferous formation. After sinking through only fifteen feet of surface soil, which was of a clayey nature, a thin layer of sandstone was exposed, which, on being penetrated, proved to be the crust of the true yellow diamondiferous ground. In this, garnets, carbon, green pebbles, and small diamonds were found. The wash proved exceedingly heavy, and the yield of stones increases with the depth of the mine in a remarkable way.

The character of the Kaal valley stones is totally different to any other South African diamonds, and the Robinson diamond mining company promises to be a factor in the gem market before many months are over, as the operations for development and proper equipment of the mine are to be undertaken with the greatest vigour and expedition.—[Pretoria, South Africa, Press.]

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PROSPECTUS, 1894-1895.

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Was Death Necessary?

[Special Telegram to Chicago Inter-Ocean.] "SYCAMORE, ILL., May 25, 1894.—George W. Churchill, chief engineer of the Chicago and North Western, died of heart disease this afternoon while riding his bicycle."

A splendid man. A useful citizen, occupying a responsible position in the city where he lived.

He was a necessity, not only to his family and friends, but to the entire community.

Near Vandalla, in the same state, Illinois there lives a widely known, much respected prosperous farmer, Mr. J. F. Helm.

Why did he not drop dead? On the same day that the telegraph operator at Sycamore was clicking to the press of the country the startling news of the sudden death of Mr. Churchill, Mr. Helm at Vandalla posted the following letter:

Vandalla, Ill., May 25, 1894. Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.: I desire to add my experience to the many testimonials of benefit, persons have received from the use of your remedies. I was troubled with heart disease for several years. At first I felt an oppression around my heart; I then began to get short of breath, after violent exercise I was unable to rest, and finally became so bad that that work became an impossibility. I was doctored by several of the best physicians but obtained only temporary relief. Mr. G. R. Capps, druggist here, induced me to try a bottle of your Heart Cure. It helped me from the start; my trouble had become chronic, I had neglected it so long, that I have used several bottles. The result has been most wonderful. I can breathe freely and easily, suffering no inconvenience from extra exertion and can enjoy a good night's rest, something I have not been able to do for years. I cannot express thanks too highly in commendation of your Heart Cure; believing you have prolonged my life many years, I can and will cheerfully recommend it to anyone suffering with heart trouble.

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